

Committee on Ways and Means

Summary of H.R. 240

Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2005

On January 4, 2005, Representatives Pryce, Thomas, Boehner, Barton, Goodlatte, Herger, McKeon, Bilirakis, DeLay, Shaw, Cantor, English, Camp, Nancy Johnson, Weller, Norwood, Joe Wilson and Kline introduced H.R. 240, the *Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2005*. H.R. 240 is an updated version of legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in both 2002 and 2003.

H.R. 240 would reauthorize TANF and other related programs for more than five years, extending these programs beyond their March 31, 2005 deadline. Other key provisions would:

Help Welfare Recipients Achieve Independence Through Work by:

- Increasing minimum work requirements from current 50 percent of welfare recipients to 70 percent within five years, while providing continued credit for caseload declines.
- Requiring welfare recipients to put in a full work week and providing additional opportunities for education, substance abuse treatment, or work-related training.
- Providing health benefits for those leaving welfare.

Protect Children & Strengthen Families by:

- Increasing child care funding by up to \$4 billion over five years.
- Strengthening Child Support Enforcement and encouraging States to give child support payments to mothers and children.
- Encouraging healthy, two-parent married families by making available up to \$300 million annually for programs that encourage healthy, stable marriages.
- Continuing abstinence-only education funding.

Encouraging Innovation by States by:

- Establishing new “State Flex” authority to encourage innovation across TANF, Food Stamps, Public Housing, Workforce Investment Act, and Child Care programs, among others.